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RPPR Final Report
as of 16-May-2019

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STEM Degrees:

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Major Goals: This DURIP project provided funds for computing hardware to upgrade the computing capabilities of Rensselaer's Scientific Computation Research Center (SCOREC). The primary driver for the requested system is our ongoing U.S. Army Research Office grant entitled "Multiscale Methods for the Reliable Simulation of Multiphase Processes", W911NF-14-1-0301, Professors Assad A. Oberai, Mark S. Shephard and Onkar Sahni Principal Investigators. In addition to the core research, SCOREC has partnered with Simmetrix Inc. on a STTR project entitled "Tools for Parallel Adaptive Simulation of Multiphase Ballistic Flows", W911NF-16-C-0117, for which a Sequential Phase II project will be funded. The efforts in these projects are directly related to supporting the U.S. Army's modernization priorities related to long-range precision fires. As part of these efforts we have developed collaborations with Donald E. Carlucci, Senior Research Scientist, U.S. Army ARDEC RDAR-DSM and Robert E. Dillon, Chief Science Advisor, U.S. Army ARDEC, RDAR-WSB and selected scientist working in their organizations.

In addition, we have an ongoing DoD HPCMP PETTT project supporting the advancement and integration of our adaptive meshing technologies with CREATE-AV Helios code (under AMRDEC's Aviation Development Directorate) and Proteus code (of ERDC's Coastal and Hydraulics Lab). Furthermore, we have initiated efforts to address specific simulation needs of future vertical lift platforms working with Rajneesh Singh, Team Lead, Vehicle Integrated Analysis, U.S. ARL-VTD and Russell Gray, Program Manager, Advanced Programs, Sikorsky Innovations. In this area, we have interacted with the U.S. Army and Sikorsky to perform complex simulations.

Accomplishments: Computing System Upgrades Support by DURIP

The funds from the DURIP grant supported the purchase of a parallel computing cluster, two large memory compute systems and six high-end graphics workstations.

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Parallel Compute Cluster: The parallel compute cluster purchased with the DURIP funds consists of 11 Dell R7425 compute nodes, each with two 24-core 2.3 GHz AMD EPYC processors, 128 GB of DDR4 2666MHz RAM, and a direct connection to a 100Gbps Infiniband fabric. Each node has a peak of 2.2 TerraFLOPS, with an aggregate performance about 24.2 TeraFLOPS. The cluster use in the execution of out large-scale parallel simulation such as those outlined below.

Large Memory Systems: Two Dell R7425 compute nodes with 512GB of RAM were purchased to serve the role of large memory systems. They are otherwise identical to the parallel compute hardware and can be used to provide an additional 4.4 Terraflops for exceptionally demanding computations. In addition to providing addition parallel compute power, the large memory systems support situations that arise where access to a large single address spaces is needed. A common example of this are cases where we are provided extremely large serial mesh cases that we must first process into a distributed mesh for execution of our simulations on the cluster. There are also some secondary codes we use (e.g., partitioners) that either require the large memory access to execute or show poor scaling to high core counts.

Workstations: Six high-end graphics workstations that greatly increase our ability to prepare simulations, develop code, and visualize results were also added to the SCOREC system as part of this project. Each workstation has an Intel Core i7 3.6 GHz 4-core processor, 24 GB of DDR4 2400MHz RAM, and either 4GB Nvidia Quadro P1000 (4) or 8GB Nvideo Quadro P4000 (2) graphics card driving a 27" Dell Ultrasharp 2560x1440 resolution monitor. The two systems with the 8GB Nvideo Quadro P4000 GPU are specifically targeted to support our efforts to develop GPU based version of SCOREC codes as we prepare for the coming generations of massively parallel systems which are heterogeneous systems with GPU accelerators.

Summary of Technology Developments and Results

The focus of our U.S. Army Research Office grant is the development of high-fidelity simulation technologies for propellant burn, and interior and exterior ballistics [1][2][3] [9][10][13][14]. Building on our existing stabilized finite element based CFD capabilities, developments carried out have included:

- A discontinuous Galerkin (DG) method that is only applied at the phase-change interface.
- Arbitrary Eulerian Lagrangian (ALE) formulation with large motion.
- Parallel mesh motion algorithm capable of maintaining element quality as objects change shape and position due to burning and/or motion.
- Parallel mesh adaptation applied on selected time steps when either the mesh quality due to objects shape change and/or motion, or when the discretization errors indicate the mesh topology must change.

The capabilities have been implemented in our parallel, stabilized finite element code called PhaseChangePHASTA. This code has been used to solve compressible flow problems on moving meshes for evolving domains (including phase change) and has been integrated with the geometry tracking methods and meshing technologies developed by Simmetrix in the STTR project.

The attached pdf report includes test examples of a projectile moving down a barrel and propellant burn. The report also discusses our planned continued developments.

Training Opportunities: The systems are currently being used by the three graduate students working on the ARO project to continue the methods development and to run test cases. We are also setting up access to the ARDEC collaborators. The two students and postdoc involved with the PETTT project are using the systems to develop and exercise adaptive methods. A number of other SCOREC postdocs and students have access to the system to do core parallel unstructured mesh technology developments used in PhaseChangePHASTA and the associated mesh adaptation tools.

Results Dissemination: PhaseChangePHASTA and our parallel unstructured mesh adaptation tools are available as open source code under a BSD license. Select faculty, postdocs and students are actively engaged in working with Army researchers on supporting their use of these technologies.

Honors and Awards: Nothing to Report

Protocol Activity Status:

RPPR Final Report as of 16-May-2019

Technology Transfer: In addition to technical publications, PhaseChangePHASTA and our parallel unstructured mesh adaptation tools are available as open source code under a BSD license. Select faculty, postdocs and students are actively engaged in working with Army researchers on supporting their use of these technologies.

PARTICIPANTS:

Participant Type: PD/PI

Participant: Mark S. Shephard

Person Months Worked: 1.00

Project Contribution:

International Collaboration:

International Travel:

National Academy Member: N

Other Collaborators:

Funding Support:

Participant Type: Co PD/PI

Participant: Assad A. Oberai

Person Months Worked: 1.00

Project Contribution:

International Collaboration:

International Travel:

National Academy Member: N

Other Collaborators:

Funding Support:

Participant Type: Co PD/PI

Participant: Onkar Sahni

Person Months Worked: 1.00

Project Contribution:

International Collaboration:

International Travel:

National Academy Member: N

Other Collaborators:

Funding Support:

Final Report

Computing System for the Simulation of Multiphase Processes

Grant Number W911NF-18-1-0228

Introduction

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Figure 1 demonstrates the evolution of the geometric model configuration as a projectile moves down a barrel. Sliding contact is supported by evolving the trimmed definition of the surface on which the body slides (the leading and trailing barrel surfaces around the projectile). The projectile may also slide over holes that model muzzle brakes in the barrel.

Figure 2 shows the evolution of the mesh (including a cross-section) as the projectile in Figure 1 moves down the barrel. The mesh is adapted to the size control attributes as the domain evolves: refinement is retained around the projectile, and coarsening carried out behind the projectile as it moves forward. Figure 3 shows an example demonstrating

propellant grains undergoing arbitrary motion and deformation in a distributed parallel simulation with the presence of structured layered elements around the phase interface.

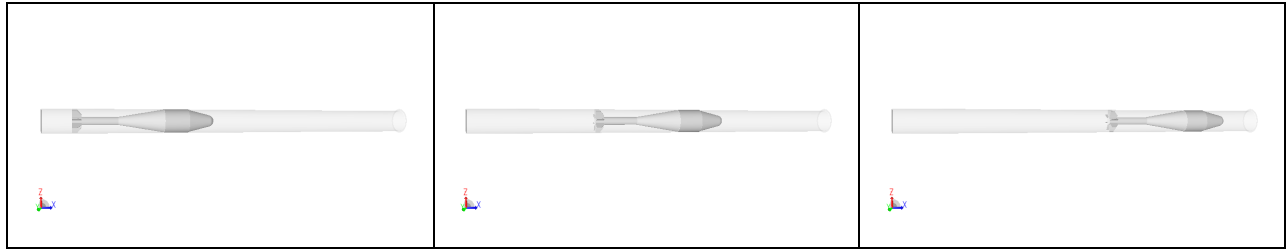


Figure 1: Geometric model evolution as a finned projectile moves down barrel.

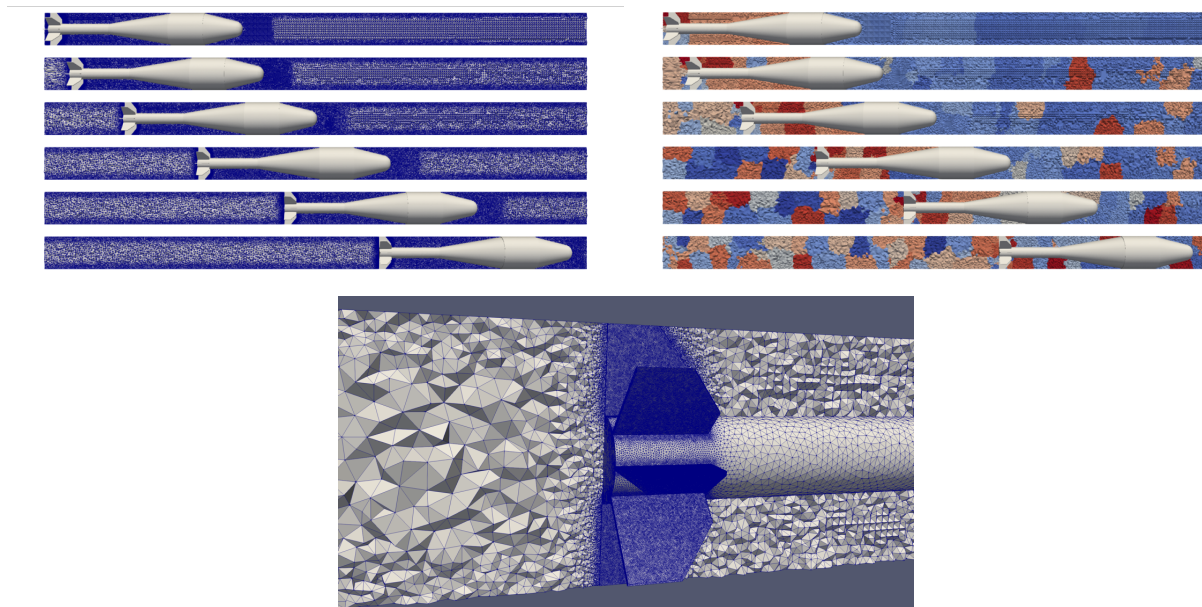


Figure 2: Mesh evolution as a finned projectile moves down barrel: mesh (left top) and partitioning (right top); a zoomed view near the fins at an intermediate instance (bottom).

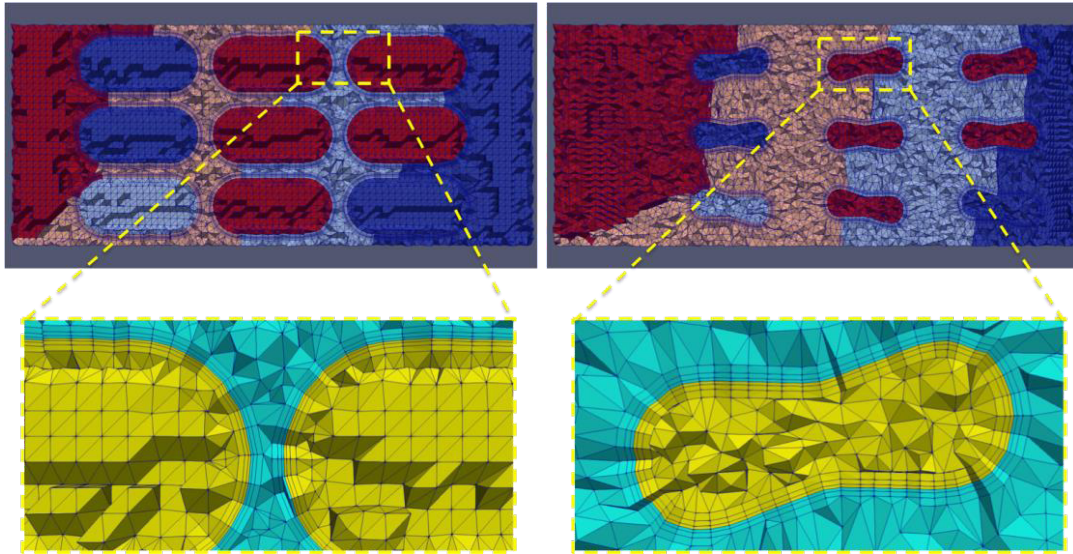


Figure 3: A prescribed mesh motion in parallel for a case with 9 (non-perforated) grains using GeomSim Discrete for deformations (note colors in the top row represent different parts of the partitioned mesh while colors in the bottom row are used to show different phases).

In Figure 4 and Figure 5, we show some of our recent results on grain-burn and moving projectile problems, respectively, based on the PhaseChangePHASTA code together with Simmetrix tools.

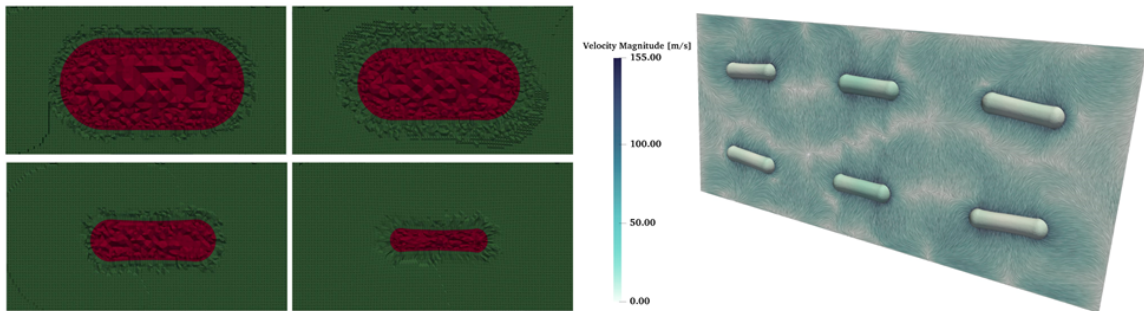


Figure 4: Simulation of physics-driven burn of 6 (non-perforated) grains in a cavity; cross-section view of the mesh for a grain at 4 instances (left) and flow field around 6 grains at the last instance (right).

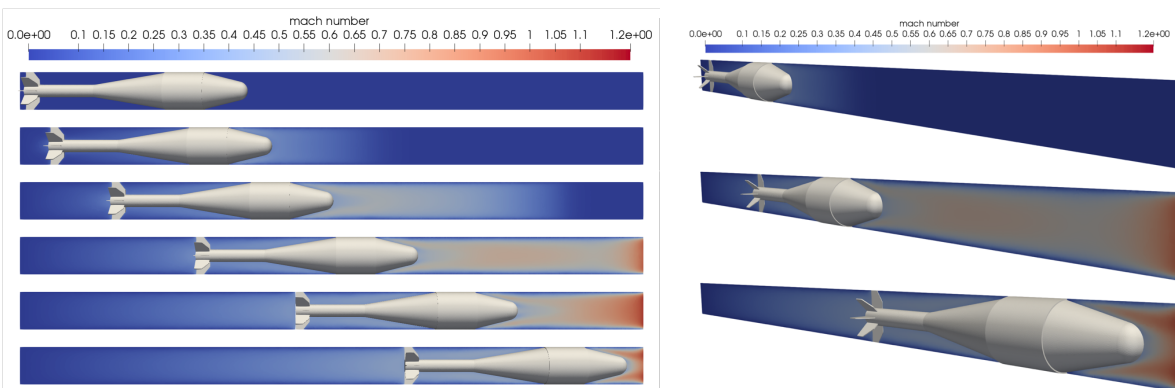


Figure 5: Solution evolution (Mach number) as a finned projectile moves down the barrel (including a 3D view on the right).

In addition to precision fires, we have begun to address specific simulation needs of future vertical lift platforms [4][5][6][7][8][11][12].

Planned Continuing Developments:

Our planned research on the ARO project, for which we are applying for a two year add-on, included efforts in the following areas:

- Extending the current multiphase model to allow us to distinguish between the propellant gas phase, the unburnt air and the products of combustion for a more accurate modeling of the combustion processes.
- A more accurate model of the propellant going from a highly viscous fluid model to a thermoelastic solid undergoing finite deformation.
- A more complete set of adaptive error estimation and adaptive mesh control methods.
- Inclusion of an operator to capture strong shocks that can work in conjunction with specialized mesh adaptation for the accurate resolution of shocks.
- Accounting for model topological changes (such as grains completely burning out, or when the projectile leaves the barrel) within the analysis code and error estimation procedures.

The planned activities on the proposed the Sequential Phase II STTR project include:

- Maintaining consistent geometric fidelity in simulations with evolving geometry and development of reference geometry to be used in adaptive mesh control.
- Generation and adaptation of highly anisotropic meshes for the accurate resolution of key flow physics in thin sections that are orders of magnitude smaller than the geometric entities that enclose/bound the thin sections.
- Parallel construction of non-conforming adaptation and coupling to near-body unstructured meshes of coordinate-aligned octree meshes.
- Improvement of the non-linear solution procedure through the use of better conditioned stabilization operators and more advanced linear algebra technologies.
- Implementation of a base model to account for surface regression of a driving/rotating band as the projectile traverses down the barrel.

A critical part of the above activities will be the demonstration, and subsequent application, of the tools including:

- Prediction of high-speed multiphase flows in long-range precision fires based on high-fidelity simulations of the 3D grain burn process for perforated propellants as well as high-speed flows in narrow gaps and in exterior ballistics in coordination with the U.S. Army ARDEC RDAR-DSM and RDAR-WSB labs.
- Targeted vertical lift problems with complex aerodynamic interactions working with the U.S. Army Research Labs and Sikorsky.

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